

Bournemouth & Dorset Advanced Drivers



July Newsletter - 2026 (edition 133)

It is that time of year again....

This year I was able to take advantage of the Government's MOT reminder service. My phoned beep having received a text message giving me a months' notice that my car's MOT was due. A quick phone call to my local garage and the car was booked in a week later.

Given I was due to head up the Lake District for the weekend, I thought it best not to jinx the test by booking the car in before the trip, instead it was seen at 0830 the morning after I'd got back. Needless to say, there was nothing to worry about and having just walked home and started working I received a phone call to say that it had passed. Happy days! My lunch break was used walking back to the garage to collect the car.

Unlike many people, I still service the car myself, so I feel that gives me a higher degree of confidence that nothing unexpected will be flagged up, and helps me keep the car running as it should.

However, like normal, this newsletter has been left to the last minute, so I'll keep this editorial short, and hope you enjoy the rest of the articles this month.

Stay safe & happy motoring,

Matt Ames

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Forthcoming Social events

August 2026

No social is planned for August

3rd September 2026

(tbc)

1st October 2026

(tbc)

5th November 2026 (provisional)

David Sidwick, Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset will be talking to the group finishing off with a Question and Answer session.

Time: 1900

Drinks can be purchased from the bar from 1900, talk starts at 1930. Accessing Wimborne Town football club can be a bit of a fine art. Recommended access is to follow Lonsdale Road (from the B3073) through the new housing estate, and then turn left onto Ainsley Road, and park in the ground's carpark on the right.

As always the latest information about Group Social evenings can be found on our website at: <https://www.bdiam.org.uk/social-events/>

IAM Test passes for the Group

Congratulations to our latest Full members of the Bournemouth & Dorset Group who have recently passed their IAM RoadSmart test (observer is listed beside them if known at publication):

Colin Raynor

Chris Durham

Great driving and thanks to our Observer Team for helping you achieve your pass and becoming a new member of the IAM RoadSmart family.

A special mention for our Group's Chief Observer, Jason who recently passed his IMI National Observer QA (Car) test.

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Mike Staton

Many congratulations go out to Mike Staton from The Bournemouth and Dorset Committee, and to observers and members who have been IAM members for 50 years. He is one of the longest-serving members of the original Bournemouth and District Advanced Motorists Group.

To celebrate this great achievement, Sue Whitcher and I decided to spend an afternoon with Mike to gather his recollections of his time (to date) with our Group.



Mike (left), with our Chief Observer Jason Chalk

Mike's interest in motor vehicles dates back to when, as a little lad, he moved from Chesterfield to Boscombe. His father owned a coach business, and his brother-in-law (Tom Jones!) had a lorry business – on occasion, he would go out with him. Mike learned to drive as soon as he was old enough, dare we say in the 1960's.

Mike moved to Bear Cross in the late 1960s and resides in the same house today. Nearby, he got to know

Maurice Fishlock, who became an instructor in Traffic at Devizes, marking the start of a close relationship with Dorset and Hampshire Police. From what Mike remembers, there was a 5-week training course in Advanced Driving hosted by the Police, and, as a bolt-on, Mike also paid for the Advanced Driving Test, which he passed in 1976. Maurice initially put him in touch with the Southern Group, who used to meet near Southampton. Mike was informed after that the Bournemouth Group was being set up, and he attended the first meeting in Parkstone. Jonathan Saunders and Ken Farrant, who some of us know, were there. Within a year or so, Mike became an Observer and today still holds this status – what an achievement. During this time, he was part of the team that initiated the set-up of the Salisbury Group. Mike worked with Maurice to produce an advanced driving video. He believes that, according to Mike, no other Group had produced one at that time.

Over the years, he has attended numerous Area Forum meetings in Bristol and, for more than 35 years, has been the Monthly Meetings Host, tirelessly finding Speakers for the event.

Mike, over the years, has been involved in many organizations inside and outside the motoring fraternity. These include Bournemouth Rotary, Road Safety of Bournemouth, and Roadways in conjunction with Dorset Police,

Here are a couple of the most memorable moments:

With his links with both Dorset and Hampshire Police, he was asked to act as a VIP for the opening of the BIC. He was picked up at a Hampshire airport and driven in a five-car Police convoy to Bournemouth. He remembers no one passed them – he loved it!

In 1995, the Group set up a skills course at nearby Matchams. Mike was the compere(?) on the microphone all day; he remembers enjoying it so much that he couldn't stop talking. He said I did waffle on a bit.

Thank you again, Mike, from all of us, for your dedication to the Group and, importantly, for keeping Dorset roads safer.

Neville Kapoor & Sue Whitcher

Bournemouth & Dorset Advanced Drivers team up with Wimborne Town Football Club

We are delighted to announce that Bournemouth and Dorset Advancer Drivers is now sponsoring local footballer Cam Munn, who plays for Wimborne Town Football Club.

As an organisation committed to developing skills, confidence, and excellence on the road, we are proud to support a talented young sportsman who demonstrates the same dedication and commitment in his chosen field.



Cameron Munn, Wimborne Town Football Club

We wish Cam every success for the coming season and look forward to following his progress at Wimborne Town.

Our association with the club is strengthened further by the fact that Wimborne Town Football Club also hosts our monthly social meetings. The excellent facilities provide members with a welcoming venue to meet, socialise, and share their enthusiasm for advanced driving.

We are pleased to support both local sport and the wider community and look forward to continuing our partnership with Wimborne Town Football Club in the years ahead.

Cameron Munn - Biography

After establishing himself as a regular choice at Hamworthy United in the Wessex Premier and Southern Leagues, Cam re-joined manager Tim Sills at Wimbo-

rne. He scored six goals in his 23 appearances for The Magpies on our way to winning the Southern League Division One South title in 2023/24.

Cam started the 2024/25 season on fire, scoring the winner against Hanwell on our return to the Southern Premier, before scoring a hat trick against Winchester in our second game. As of the end of 2024/25 Cam has made 65 appearances for The Magpies, scoring 13 goals.

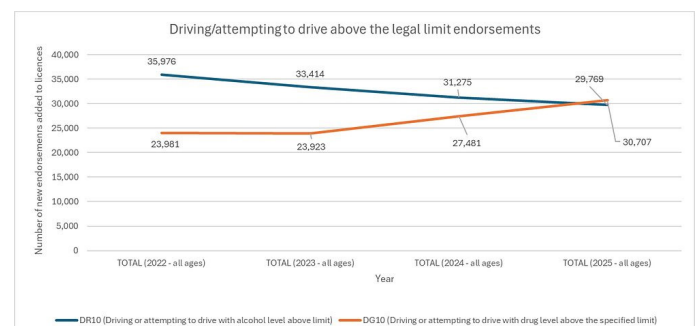
Drug driving offences overtake drink driving for the first time

from the IAM Newsroom

- Drug driving endorsements in the UK exceeded 30,000 for the first time in 2025, surpassing the 29,769 recorded for the equivalent drink drive offence.
- Drivers aged 17-24 account for almost a fifth (18%) of drug driving offences.

The number of drivers receiving endorsements on their licence for drug driving has overtaken those receiving the corresponding drink drive offence according to worrying new figures.

DVLA data obtained and analysed by road safety charity IAM RoadSmart* shows that the number of drug driving offences (DG10s) added to individual licences in 2025 stood at 30,707, a sizeable 28% increase on the 23,981 recorded in 2022. Meanwhile the figures for drink driving offences (DR10s) in 2025 stood at 29,769 licence endorsements, a welcome 17% reduction on the 35,976 recorded in 2022.



The figures also suggest young drivers aged 17-24, despite only making up around 6% of all licence holders^, received 18% of all drug driving licence en-

dorsements in 2025, showing the scale of the problem among new drivers. In 2025, the youngest age group (aged 17-19), accumulated more than 1,100 drug driving endorsements, more than double the number (464) recorded for all drivers aged 60 and over.



The findings will add weight to some police officer views that drug driving has now overtaken drink driving in terms of prevalence**. Previous research published in January 2025 by IAM RoadSmart showed that roadside drugs testing conducted by police were returning a 50% positivity rate***, far higher than the 16% recorded for drink drive tests. Separate research found that nearly half of drug-drive offences (44%) are committed by a reoffender, according to Government data.

Impairment by drugs as a contributory factor in a collision resulted in 149 fatalities in 2023, significantly higher than the 78 recorded in 2015. It's illegal to drive if either you're unfit to do so because you're on legal or illegal drugs or if you have certain levels of illegal drugs in your blood (even if they have not affected your driving).

It's also illegal in England, Scotland and Wales to drive with legal (prescription) drugs in your body if it impairs your driving. Penalties may include a minimum 1-year driving ban, an unlimited fine, up to 6 months in prison and a criminal record. Drug driving endorsements also remain on a licence for 11 years. The maximum penalty for causing death by careless driving under the influence of drugs is life imprisonment.

Police forces have more tools at their disposal now, with roadside swab tests able to confirm if a suspect is driving under the influence of cannabis or cocaine. Suspects are then required to provide a blood test,

though delays in the laboratory testing means these individuals can still drive pending the results which can take several months.

In May 2026**** two forces (Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police and Thames Valley Police) began trialling the world's first Nitrous Oxide (laughing gas) breathalyser as forces fight on all fronts to curb the dangers of drug driving.

The findings have led to calls for radical action to curb the growth of drug driving, including a rehabilitation scheme, similar to what is already provided to convicted drink drivers*****.

IAM RoadSmart Director of Policy and External Communications, Nicholas Lyes said:

"It's becoming clear that the UK is mired in a drug driving epidemic, to the point where it may now be more of a threat on our streets than drink driving. These figures demonstrate the need for radical action to support police forces and reduce harm to all other road users.

"The UK Government's road safety strategy clearly outlines the intention to tackle drug driving, but we need to start seeing action soon before more lives are needlessly lost.

"Educating people about the misconceptions of the impacts that drugs have on a person's ability to drive is a start, but police should be given powers to suspend licences at the roadside for failing a drug swab test. In addition, it's vital that we establish a national drug drive rehabilitation programme. Research has consistently shown similar courses can prevent drink drive reoffending and there's every reason to believe a similar approach would reduce drug driving, change behaviour, and benefit road safety.

"Drug driving ruins lives and unless we start approaching the issue with the seriousness that it merits, we risk allowing a public safety crisis to worsen."

for references, please see: <https://media.iamroadsmart.com/pressreleases/drug-driving-offences-overtake-drink-driving-for-the-first-time-3457081>